

REMARKS

Claims 5-9 remain in this application. Claims 1-4, directed to the non-elected invention, are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 5 is rejected, along with dependent claims 8 and 9, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,443,560 to Le Blanc, Jr. et al. Reconsideration is requested. The “product gas” generated by the Le Blanc, Jr. et al. coal gasifier 20, identified by the Examiner as a partial oxidation reactor, is not fed to the secondary reformer 11, identified by the Examiner as a steam reformer, as claim 5 requires. The Le Blanc, Jr. et al. secondary reformer 11 is located in a completely differently series of lines 9 and 12-16 than the high temperature shift unit 23, identified by the Examiner as an adiabatic, catalytic after-treatment stage, and the unit 23 is not arranged between the coal gasifier 20 and the secondary reformer 11 as claim 5 requires. Finally, the unit 23 does not minimize an oxygen content in gas fed to the reformer 11 as claim 5 requires; again, the reformer 11 is located in a completely different series of lines than the unit 23. It follows, therefore, that claim 5 as it appears above is not anticipated by the Le Blanc, Jr. et al. patent.

U.S. Patent 6,620,536 to Strobel et al., relied on as a secondary reference to reject claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), does not suggest modifying the Le Blanc, Jr. et al. configuration so as to meet the limitations in claim 5 discussed above, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is patentable. The

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rest of the claims remaining in this application depend on claim 5 and are patentable as well.

This application is in condition for allowance for reasons discussed above. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,

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